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CONT.

in the microorganism culture precipitate has at least 98% homology with the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:1.

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4. The pigment-containing substance for feed additives according to claim 3, wherein the microorganism in the microorganism culture precipitate is E-396 strain or a mutant thereof.

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5. The pigment-containing substance for feed additives according to claim 2, wherein a DNA nucleotide sequence corresponding to 16S ribosomal RNA of the microorganism in the microorganism culture precipitate has at least 98% homology with the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:1.

6. The pigment-containing substance for feed additives according to claim 5, wherein the microorganism in the microorganism culture precipitate is E-396 strain or a mutant thereof.

Add the following new claims:

7. A method for producing a pigment-containing substance for a feed additive, comprising removing moisture from a culture precipitate obtained from a pigment-producing microorganism wherein the carotenoid compound remains unextracted.

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8. The method of claim 7, wherein the pigment-containing substance is astaxanthin.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein the culture precipitate comprises 16S ribosomal RNA having at least 98% homology with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

10. The method of claim 7, wherein the culture precipitate comprises at least 3 mass % carotenoid compounds.

Add c<sup>4</sup>